

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

- 1 1. (Original) A method comprising:
 - 2 receiving authentication information associated with an authentication policy from a
 - 3 remote device;
 - 4 comparing the received authentication information against authentication information
 - 5 associated with an authentication policy in a local device; and
 - 6 determining an authentication priority between the local device and the remote device
 - 7 based, at least in part, on the comparison of the authentication information.
- 1 2. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the authentication information includes
- 2 an indication of priority level associated with the device.
- 1 3. (Original) A method according to claim 2, wherein authentication policy exhibiting a higher
- 2 priority level will control which device initiates authentication between the local device and the
- 3 remote device.

1 4. (Original) A method according to claim 3, wherein the authentication information further
2 includes an indication of device class, wherein a tie in priority level between the devices is
3 resolved through analysis of the indication of device class associated with the local device and
4 the remote device.

1 5. (Original) A method according to claim 4, wherein the indication of device class denotes
2 whether the device is one of a base station, a subscriber station, and/or a client station.

1 6. (Original) A method according to claim 5, wherein a base station has a higher device class
2 than a subscriber station.

1 7. (Original) A method according to claim 1, further comprising:
2 selecting one of the remote device or the local device to initiate authentication based, at
3 least in part, on the determined authentication priority.

1 8. (Original) A method according to claim 7, further comprising:
2 initiating an authentication process by the selected one of the remote device or the local
3 device.

1 9. (Original) A storage medium comprising content which, when accessed by an electronic
2 appliance, causes the electronic appliance to perform the method according to claim 1.

1 10. (Original) An apparatus comprising:

2 a transmitter, to selectively communicate with a remote device; and
3 a security agent, associated with a local device and coupled with the transmitter, to
4 receive authentication information associated with an authentication policy from a remote
5 device, and to compare the received authentication information against authentication
6 information associated with an authentication policy in a local device to identify a relative
7 authentication priority between the local device and the remote device based, at least in part, on
8 the comparison of the authentication information.

1 11. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 10, the apparatus further comprising:
2 memory, responsive to the security agent, to receive and maintain an authentication
3 policy associated with a device.

1 12. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 11, the authentication policy comprising
2 authorization information including an indication of authentication priority level associated with
3 the device.

1 13. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the authentication policy exhibiting
2 a higher priority level will control which device initiates authentication between the local device
3 and the remote device.

1 14. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 13, the memory further comprising an indication
2 of device class within the authentication policy, wherein a tie in priority level between the

3 devices is resolved by the security agent through comparison of the indication of device class
4 associated with the local device and the remote device.

1 15. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the indication of device class
2 denotes whether the device is one of a base station, a subscriber station, and/or a client station.

1 16. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 15, wherein a base station has a higher device
2 class than a subscriber station.

1 17. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the transceiver selectively
2 establishes a communication channel with the remote device through which the transceiver
3 receives at least a subset of the authentication policy associated with the remote device.

1 18. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the transceiver is a wireless
2 transceiver, and wherein the communication channel is a wireless communication channel in
3 accordance with a wireless metropolitan area network (WMAN) communication standard.

1 19. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the security agent selects one of the
2 remote device or the local device to initiate authentication based, at least in part, on the
3 determined authentication priority.

1 20. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the security agent initiates an
2 authentication process by the selected one of the remote device or the local device.

1 21. (Original) A system comprising:
2 one or more dipole antenna(e);
3 a transmitter, responsive to the one or more dipole antenna(e), to selectively
4 communicate with a remote device; and
5 a security agent, associated with a local device and coupled with the transmitter, to
6 receive authentication information associated with an authentication policy from a remote
7 device, and to compare the received authentication information against authentication
8 information associated with an authentication policy in a local device to identify a relative
9 authentication priority between the local device and the remote device based, at least in part, on
10 the comparison of the authentication information.

1 22. (Original) A system according to claim 21, further comprising:
2 memory, responsive to the security agent, to receive and maintain an authentication
3 policy associated with a device.

1 23. (Original) A system according to claim 22, the authentication policy comprising
2 authorization information including an indication of authentication priority level associated with
3 the device.

1 24. (Original) A system according to claim 23, wherein the authentication policy exhibiting a
2 higher priority level will control which device initiates authentication between the local device
3 and the remote device.

1 25. (Original) A system according to claim 24, the memory further comprising an indication of
2 device class within the authentication policy, wherein a tie in priority level between the devices
3 is resolved by the security agent through comparison of the indication of device class associated
4 with the local device and the remote device.